

“The Chancellor has taken the trouble to demonstrate clearly, that young widows have not generally received near the value of their dower. It is plain to common sense, that the dower of an old woman cannot be equal in value to that of a young one. To fix one value of all dowers is therefore, preposterous. The Chancellor has, with great trouble, care and attention, calculated, on the principles here laid down, the value of dowers of women of different ages. It is certain, that the value of the dower of a healthy woman twenty years of age, who has an equal chance of living thirty, is more than that of a woman, who has attained thirty years; however, the Chancellor, under all circumstances, has thought proper to consider the dower of all women, not exceeding thirty years of age, to be no more than one-eighth of the net sum produced by the sale of lands; and he thinks proper to pass a general order agreeably to which allowances for dower hereafter shall be made.”

“A healthy widow, not exceeding thirty years, shall be allowed one-sixth of the net amount of sales; if above thirty and not exceeding thirty-seven, one-seventh; above thirty-seven and not exceeding forty-five, one-eighth; above forty-five and not exceeding fifty, one-ninth; above fifty and not exceeding fifty-five, one-tenth; above fifty-five and not exceeding sixty, one-eleventh; above sixty and not exceeding sixty-five, one-twelfth; above sixty-five and not exceeding seventy, one-sixteenth; after that age all allowed one-twentieth.”

Some time after which, in the year 1804, the subject was again taken into consideration by Chancellor HANSON, when he thought proper to alter the graduation of the allowance to widows. “From the table and calculations,” says he. “taken from *Simpson's Algebra*, \* of the probable duration of life, it appears, **271** that the value of a woman's dower is as follows: If under thirty years of age, one-sixth; above thirty and under thirty-six, two-thirteenths; above thirty-five and under forty, one-seventh; above forty and under forty-five, two-fifteenths; above forty-six and under fifty-one, one-eighth; above fifty-one and under fifty-six, one-ninth; above fifty-five and under sixty-one, one-tenth; above sixty and under sixty-seven, one-twelfth; above sixty-six and under seventy-two, one-fourteenth; above seventy-two and under seventy-seven, one-eighteenth; and above seventy-seven, one-twentieth.”

On the 14th day of December, 1819, Clement Dorsey and Samuel Chapman, filed their bill in this Court against Charles S. Smith, in which bill, among various other circumstances, it was stated, that Henry A. Smith, on the 17th of July, 1802, made his last will in which he said, “I do hereby give and bequeath to my said wife Dicandia S. Smith, during her natural life, all the land whereon I now live, near and adjoining Benedict, Leonardtown, in Charles